Master of Research in Modern History – 2018

BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Research is a two-year program and is the main pathway to Macquarie’s Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programs.

In **Year 1** (BPhil) you will undertake advanced coursework units including the study of research frontiers in your area of study.

**Year 2** (MRes) is a masters-level postgraduate research training program. You will specialise in research preparation and focus on a specific research topic, and will be required to submit a research thesis of 20,000 words.

**2018 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

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<td>plus:</td>
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<td>plus:</td>
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**FOAR701 – RESEARCH PARADIGMS**

**Compulsory – Session 1, Day & External**

This unit provides a broad overview of the research paradigms that characterise the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Through FOAR701:
- The Faculty of Arts seeks to provide students with a constructive framework to recognise the possible contribution of diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches.
- Students will learn to better recognise the assumptions that underpin diverse approaches, their strengths, and their relations to each other, especially to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of ideas.
- Students will have a strong grasp of the intellectual terrain across Arts disciplines, having become familiar with some of the core paradigms that have persisted in our fields, including through multiple variants over time.

**MHIS744 – MAKING HISTORIES PUBLIC**

**Compulsory – Session 1, Day – Dr Tanya Evans**

Researchers in Australia, Britain and the US have revealed that ‘ordinary people’ don’t learn history through formal teaching or scholarly monographs but mostly through consuming historical television, radio and film productions, when creating family trees and visiting museums. This unit will examine how and why academic historians make public history and the tensions and opportunities that are produced by the decision to appeal to a wide audience; what might it mean to turn history into a leisure pursuit? We will explore the way histories are represented in television and radio production, family history, museums, historic houses, exhibition curation, social policy and political debate. In so doing, we will investigate the social and political functions of the acquisition of historical knowledge and training. At its core, the unit will question whether this process democratises historical knowledge and thus enfranchises new authors and audiences. After considering some of the theoretical and historiographical issues that characterise this practice, students will develop their own proposal for a public history project related to their filed of historical interest.

**MHIS748 – INTRODUCTION TO MODERN HISTORIOGRAPHY**

**Compulsory – Session 1, Day – Modern History Staff**

An introduction to views of the nature, origins, limits and purpose of historical knowledge since the beginning of the nineteenth century. Topics explored include: changing understandings of subject matter and evidence,
empiricism, objectivity and truth, biography, Marxism, gender, post colonialism, postmodernism, and universal histories.

FOAR706 – FEMINISM, QUEER THEORY AND THE PROBLEM OF IDENTITY

Session 1, Day – Dr Leigh Boucher

This unit examines the ways in which various contestations (over postmodernism, poststructuralism and queer theory) challenged the foundational categories of feminist theory in the 1980s and 1990s. The unit will ponder whether the call for a contingent feminist theory and practice undermined or, in fact, invigorated feminist critical thought and practice. Through an engagement with the various critical frameworks that emerged in the wake of these contestations, the unit will then examine the reformulations and reframings that feminist scholars have produced in the decades since these interventions. What do these new critical frameworks seek to explain? Do they represent a return or a critical rupture? Are we living in a post-feminist moment? This unit will be framed as a cross-disciplinary unit, students are encouraged to bring their diverse disciplinary perspectives to the discussion and assessment.

MRES700 – RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Faculty Staff

This unit aims to enable students to:

- Communicate research effectively in different modes for different audiences;
- Understand what it means to conduct and report responsibly in their discipline;
- Participate in academic peer review practices; and
- Appreciate the uses and relative merits of traditional and contemporary research communication practices.

FOAR700 – RESEARCH FRONTIERS 1

Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Modern History Staff

This unit is delivered by departments and provides an opportunity for students to engage with leading-edge research in their discipline. Students will acquire advanced disciplinary knowledge, know about how research is carried out in a disciplinary area and will demonstrate competence in the application of research skills to the disciplinary area.

MHIS700 ARCHIVES: SOURCES AND SILENCES

Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Modern History staff

Archival research is understood to be the foundation of the practice of professional historical inquiry. These various historical artefacts are considered our window onto past lives, experiences and processes. As any historian will admit, however, archives are always partial, incomplete and imperfect. So too, the processes by which certain kinds of knowledge is retained and other kinds of knowledge discarded, dismissed or concealed reveals the inherently politicized character of archival collection. This unit will critically and historically consider the relationship between the historian, archives and the past. How and when did modern “archives” emerge? What was their purpose? What are the implications for historical authority if we admit that the foundation of our disciplinary practice is always incomplete and partial? What new archives have emerged in late modernity? Is the internet one huge and unruly archive?

MHIS703 PUBLIC HISTORY INTERNSHIP

Session 2, Day – Dr Tanya Evans

In this unit new theoretical and conceptual knowledge of public history will be practiced and used to produce public history in a variety of forms. Partnerships have been discussed with the City of Sydney History Unit, the Dictionary of Sydney, local historical societies and museums in Sydney as well as elsewhere. The practice of public history outside of the university context will lead to further analysis of the relationship between the academic theory and the increasing practice and popularity of public history.

FOAR705 DIGITAL RESEARCH METHODS FOR HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Session 2, Day – A/Professor Shawn Ross

This unit explores cross-disciplinary approaches to research that fall under the rubric of eResearch, the aim of which is to use technology to solve scholarly problems in humanities, arts and social science disciplines. We will begin by asking what forms eResearch can take, specifically how digital approaches can help answer particular research questions. Students will learn how to frame questions, find appropriate tools and solutions, acquire the knowledge required to deploy those solutions and present results in an accessible way. In short, students will cultivate their ability to ‘learn how to learn’ digital approaches and software tools. The main output of this class is a proof-of-concept deployment of a digital tool or approach that advances each student’s provisional thesis topic.

This unit includes approaches used by or useful for research in many disciplines. Students are encouraged to bring their own disciplinary perspectives to the course and will explore how their own research can benefit from digital methods.

CONTACTS

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